

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-10 EB-07 COA-01 INT-05 SMI-01

PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-05 DOTE-00

FMC-02 /080 W

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R 271520Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SMITHSONIA OBSERVATORY CAMBRIDGE MASS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6402

UNCLAS DUBLIN 171

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV

SUBJ: JANUARY 1975 OIL SPILL IN BANTRY BAY

REF: SMITHSONIAN TELEGRAM JAN 13, 1975; DUBLIN 69

1. OIL SPILL TOOK PLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 17:30 HOURS ON JANUARY 10, 1975 IN BANTRY BAY WHEN TANKER "AFRAN ZODIAC" WAS UNDOCKING WITH AID OF TUGS AT GULF OIL TERMINAL. VESSEL HAD DISCHARGED CARGO OF CRUDE OIL AND WAS RETURNING EMPTY TO PERSIAN GULF. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GULF OIL PRESS RELEASE GIVING CAUSE AND NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

"GULF OIL TERMINALS (IRELAND) LTD. DISCLOSED TODAY THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED THE SURVEYORS REPORT ON THE DAMAGE TO THE 210,000 DWT AFRAN ZODIAC WHICH WAS INSPECTED AT LAS PALMAS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS.

THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT AT BANTRY ON JANUARY 10, 1975, APPEARS TO BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEFECTIVE BOW FENDERING OF THE TUG "BANTRY BAY". THE DEFECTIVE FENDERING MADE A HOLE APPROXIMATELY 4 INS BY 4 INS. IN THE TANKER'S PORT AFT BUNDER TANK DURING THE UNDOCKING MANOEUVRE.

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THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS IN EITHER THE

TANKER'S PLATING OR WELDING."

2. SPILLAGE CONSISTED OF 451 TONS OF BUNKER OIL - TYPE C. CLEAN-UP OPERATION INVOLVED, ACCORDING TO GULF, MINIMUM USE OF DISPERSANT BP 1100X AND SOME COREXIT. STRAW WAS USED TO SOAK UP OIL OFF BEACHES AND ROCKS AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REMOVED TO DUMPING SITE APPROVED BY CORK COUNTY COUNCIL. LARGE SHALLOW-DRAUGHT VESSEL WAS USED TO COLLECT OILY STRAW OFF WATER. BOOMS EMPLOYED TO RETAIN OIL INSHORE AT CERTAIN POINTS. SURVEILLANCE WAS CARRIED OUT BY MINIMUM TWICE DAILY HELICOPTER FLIGHTS OVER AREA. 250 MEN WERE EMPLOYED.

3. TANKER IS 210,000 DWT. AND BUILT IN JAPAN IN 1974. IT IS OWNED BY AFRAN TRANSPORT COMPANY, A SUBSIDIARY OF GULF OIL CORPORATION.

4. THERE HAS BEEN DAMAGE TO BIRDS IN THE AREA BUT APPARENTLY NOT VERY EXTENSIVE. SPECIES KNOWN TO BE DAMAGED INCLUDE SEAGULLS, AUKS, GANNETS, CORMORANTS AND SWANS. SEALS IN THE AREA ARE UNAFFECTED. ACCORDING TO THE IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, HERRING AND SHRIMP ARE UNAFFECTED. SCALLOPS, CLAMS AND SEA URCHINS LOCATED IN LESS THAN 20 FEET OF WATER AT HIGH TIDE ALONG THE SHORE LINE DRAWN FROM CLANROONCOOSH TO GARINISH WEST ARE NOT TO BE FISHED OR OFFERED FOR SALE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1975.

5. MISS M. WILLIS OF DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CORK IS CONDUCTING A STUDY OF EFFECTS OF SPILLAGE ON FLORA AND FAUNA. DOCTOR F.A.H. GIBSON, FISHERIES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS DATA SHEET FROM SMITHSONIAN WHICH HE EXPECTS TO COMPLETE AND FORWARD DIRECT TO SMITHSONIAN WITHIN DAY OR SO.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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